

THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, following the title and before the first full paragraph, insert the following:

- - This application is a division of application Serial No. 09/654,805, filed September 5, 2000. - -

On page 4, amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

According to the invention in a first aspect there is provided apparatus ~~as defined in Claim 1.~~ for removing solvent residue from a bed of biomass comprising an extraction vessel for containing biomass that permits a solvent or a solvent mixture to contact biomass therein to effect extraction; a source of steam selectively connectable to supply steam to the biomass in the extraction vessel; a separator for separating the steam that has contacted the biomass in the extraction vessel and solvent entrained therewith; and a delivery line for steam/solvent selectively interconnectable between the extraction vessel and the separator to permit passage of steam and solvent entrained therewith to the separator.

On page 5, amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

~~Claims 7 and 8 define optional~~ Optional forms of apparatus of the invention, ~~that~~ include a condenser, either upstream or

downstream of the separator, to condense the stream and facilitate separation of the steam and solvent from one another.

On page 5, amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 as follows:

~~Claim 8 defines a~~ A preferred form of extractor extraction vessel includes a cylindrical chamber closed at either end and having an inlet at one end and an outlet at its other end, the hollow interior of the chamber being for containing biomass, the inlet being selectively connectable to a source of solvent and a source of steam; and the outlet being selectively connectable as part of a circuit for recovering biomass extract to a vacuum or to the separator. The purpose of the option connection to a vacuum or to suction is to permit evacuation of the vessel at the end of a biomass extraction, thereby removing from the vessel the bulk of the solvent therein. This means that the steam serves primarily to strip solvent that is adsorbed onto the surface of the biomass.

On page 6, amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 as follows:

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a method ~~as defined in Claim 14.~~ of removing solvent residues from a bed of biomass, comprising contacting the biomass with steam; passing the steam and solvent entrained therewith to a

separator; and separating the steam and the solvent from one another in the separator. This method may conveniently be practised using apparatus as defined herein.

On page 6, amend the paragraph beginning at line 19 as follows:

Further, advantageous features of the method ~~are defined in Claims 15 to 22 and 24.~~ are that the step of separating includes contacting an adsorbent with the steam/solvent mixture; the step of condensing the steam before or after passing it to the separator; the step of condensing the steam before passing it to the separator; and wherein the condensing occurs within a vessel containing the biomass; the step of contacting the biomass with steam occurs in a vessel, and the method includes the step of partially or substantially evacuating the vessel before the steam contacts the biomass; the step of separating includes contacting an adsorbent with the steam/solvent mixture; and including the step of heating the adsorbent to recover solvent therefrom; the step of separating includes contacting an adsorbent with the steam/solvent mixture; and including the step of disposing of the adsorbent and the solvent therewith; and/or the step of condensing the steam includes recovering heat from the condensate and using the recovered heat to pre-heat water for steam generation.

On page 8, amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

Thus the steam line 19 is connectable to supply steam, at atmospheric or superatmospheric pressure, to the biomass in vessel 11.

On page 9, amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 as follows:

In an alternative arrangement, not forming part of the invention, embodiment the condenser may be operatively connected in line 23, upstream of ~~contain~~ container 24, to permit condensation of the steam before removal of the solvent therefrom by means of the adsorbent material.